

# AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

The U.S. Embassy is transmitting the following monthly newsletter via its warden system as a public service to U.S. citizens in Mongolia. Please feel free to disseminate this message to U.S. citizens in your organizations or to other Americans you know.



## Welcome to New Consul !

Consular Section would like to welcome our new Consul, Phil Cargile, who arrived in Mongolia on September 16. Phil joined the Foreign Service in July 2001 and has served in the Philippines, Kathmandu, Colombo, Kabul and now Ulaan Baatar.

Besides Mongolian, Phil also speaks German, Nepali and Dari. He worked during the 2004 tsunami in Sri Lanka, providing necessary services for Americans injured during the catastrophe. Phil has 3 children: Brian, Kevin and Honora who reside with their mother in Nepal.



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Ulaanbaatar, Con-  
sular Section** on  
Facebook.

## Absentee Voting Town Hall Meeting on September 28, 2010

The 2010 General Elections are scheduled for November 2, 2010—only 30 days away from now! On September 28, 2010 the Consular Section held an Absentee Voting Town Hall Meeting to explain the Absentee Voting process to the American citizens residing in Mongolia and encourage them to vote in the upcoming elections.

The TH Meeting was opened by the Ambassador Addleton who welcomed the new U.S. Consul, Phil Cargile, who arrived in Mongolia in mid-September. Mr. Cargile talked about his experience as a Foreign Service Consular Officer and said he was happy to be assigned to Mongolia. He then introduced a Consular Associate, Anna Durmus, who led the attendees through the steps of absentee voting. The participants had a chance to ask any questions they had about absentee voting. Vice-Consul, Alissa Bibb, reminded American citizens of the services that Consular Section provides to them. The American fellows were very excited to meet all Consular Section staff.

35 Americans residing in Mongolia participated in the event. They appreciated the opportunity to do the on-the-spot online research of their candidates and check their respective States' voting requirements.

After the official program ended, many participants stayed for refreshments and a chance to meet each other and to discuss individual concerns with the Embassy staff.

We would like to thank all those who came to the THM. Special thanks go to Ambassador and Mrs. Addleton and DCM Nick Hill for participating in the event.

## Inside this issue:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Welcome to new Consul   | 1 |
| Absentee Voting Town Hall Meeting on September 28, 2010         | 1 |
| Absentee Voting Information for Overseas Americans              | 2 |
| Absentee Voting Information for Overseas Americans (continued)  | 3 |
| Green Card (Diversity Visa) Lottery                             | 4 |
| A Message to American Communities and Organizations in Mongolia | 5 |
| Travel Warnings and Alerts                                      | 5 |
| Upcoming Holidays   | 5 |
| Embassy Contact Information                                     | 5 |

## Absentee Voting Information for Overseas Americans

With the General Elections only one month away, all American Citizens are strongly encouraged to register to vote and request absentee ballots to ensure that you will receive all ballots for which you are eligible. Please contact American Citizen Services (ACS) at [voteulaanbaatar@state.gov](mailto:voteulaanbaatar@state.gov) if you have any questions, or visit ACS during our [regular opening hours](#).

### Who Can Vote from Overseas?

American Citizens of 18 years or older who reside overseas are allowed to vote in absentia, including members of the U.S. Uniformed Services on active duty and their family members while away from their place of voting residence, wherever stationed, within or outside the United States.

These citizens may vote in the state or territory where they last resided immediately prior to departing the United States, even if many years have elapsed and the citizen maintains no residence in the state or territory and the intent to return to that state or territory may not be certain. Most states and territories permit these citizens to vote in elections for Federal offices only, although some states may send a ballot containing local, state and Federal offices. For those U.S. citizens who have never resided in the United States, [eighteen states](#) allow eligible U.S. citizens to register where a parent would be eligible to vote.

The following is the basic absentee voting process:

- Complete an application form and send it to local election officials in the U.S.
- The local official approves your request, or contacts you for further information
- The local official sends you an absentee ballot
- Send the completed ballot back in time to meet your state's deadline

**To register to vote and to request an absentee ballot** please download the [Federal Post Card Application](#) (FPCA). You can also obtain this form from the Consular Section at the U.S. Embassy Ulaanbaatar. Fill it out and send it in, following the guidelines for your state. For your convenience there is a [postage-paid envelope template](#). Use it when sending election materials back to the U.S. via APO/FPO or by way of the Embassy/Consulate diplomatic pouch. The on-line version of the FPCA is accepted by all states and territories. The on-line FPCA form must be completed legibly, printed, signed, dated, and mailed to your local election officials. Some states allow electronic transmission of the FPCA via fax or email to speed the process, but many states will still require voters to send in the original by mail after faxing or emailing. Voters who send their FPCAs or ballots via the host country's mail system need to affix host country postage stamps. The [FVAP Voting Assistance Guide](#) and your [local election officials](#) have the latest information on your state's requirements.

### Important Information About Voting Abroad

The official U.S. Government website for overseas absentee voting assistance is the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). It has a wealth of information about absentee voting, including the downloadable absentee ballot applications and write-in ballots, state-specific instructions for completing the form, links to state and local officials, and a downloadable emergency ballot. This site is continually updated and has the most current information regarding deadlines and voting requirements for your state.

### What about my state's requirements?

Each state establishes voting procedures, and so requirements across the country vary. It is important to be aware of your state's deadlines for registration. Specific information about your state's procedures is available at state's deadlines to register and vote, as well as their voting procedures is available [here](#).

**Absentee Voting Information for Overseas Americans (cont'd)****Emergency ballots****DON'T WAIT – PLAN TO USE A FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT**

Be aware of mail transit times between your home town and your residence abroad, and the reliability of local mail service. Don't be a passive voter and wait for a ballot that may not reach you in time. If you have not received your ballot 30 days before an election, complete and submit a [Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot \(FWAB\)](#) – or "emergency ballot" to ensure your vote is counted. Contact the Voting Assistance Officer at [voteulaanbaatar@state.gov](mailto:voteulaanbaatar@state.gov) for help or [download the FWAB here](#), write in the candidates of your choice, and mail it to your [local election officials](#). If your regular absentee ballot arrives later, fill it out and mail it back too. If by chance both make it in by the deadline, your local election official will be able to determine which of the two ballots should be counted. Proper submission of both ballots will not invalidate your vote or result in two votes being cast.

**Additional Resources:**

Be an educated voter. Non-partisan information about candidates, their voting records, and their positions on issues is widely available and easy to obtain via the Internet. Use the links appearing on the Federal Voting Assistance Program [website](#) or choose any one of several search engines to locate articles and information. Check if your state or local Board of Elections has a website. If so, it is probably fastest to make your absentee ballot request directly to them. You can also find information at:

[www.republicansabroad.org](http://www.republicansabroad.org), [www.democratsabroad.org](http://www.democratsabroad.org), [www.overseasvotefoundation.org](http://www.overseasvotefoundation.org)

**FVAP Contact Information**

If after reviewing the site you still have additional questions, you can contact the FVAP by email at [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov) or by phone Toll Free Telephone and fax at <http://www.fvap.gov/services/tollfree.html>. During non-business hours, citizens may leave a message. When doing so, please leave sufficient information to allow FVAP staff to get back in touch with you in a timely manner. Indicate the country you are calling from and leave a complete telephone number including international prefixes and email address (if available).





## GREEN CARD LOTTERY FOR US VISA OPENS OCTOBER 5, 2010

The U.S. Department of State will begin accepting applications for the 2012 Diversity Immigrant (Green Card) Lottery beginning **October 5, 2010**, and ending at noon EST on **November 3, 2010**. DV lottery entrants are strongly encouraged to apply early. No entries will be accepted after noon EST on November 3, 2010.

Winners are selected randomly, and **there is no fee to enter the lottery**. Winners are eligible to apply for a diversity visa which can be used to enter the U. S. and become a legal permanent resident (aka green card holder).

For more information on the diversity visa program, please visit [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov), the dedicated webpage by the Department of State.

Entries to the DV lottery must be submitted online at [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov). From this year, lottery winners will be **notified by e-mail** not by regular mail. Starting May 1 2011, entrants may enter their DV2012 entry confirmation number into the Entry Status Check available at [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov) to find out whether their entry was selected or not. Selectees who respond to the notification instructions on Entry Status Check will receive e-mail communications alerting them that a visa appointment has been scheduled.

Applicants may prepare and submit their own entries or have someone submit the entry for them. Regardless of whether an entry is submitted by the individual directly or assistance is provided by an attorney, friend, relative, etc., **only one entry may be submitted in the name of each individual.**

Applicants are reminded that they are responsible for all information submitted and that the information must be correct and complete. **Incomplete or incorrect applications will be void and will prevent the applicant from obtaining a visa even if his or her entry is chosen in the lottery.**

**The DV Lottery is free and paying a broker will not improve an entry's chances of selection.** Indeed, the use of an outside broker for help other than translation and data entry may result in the entrant's lifetime ban on entry into the United States.

For more information, please refer to the Embassy's website at <http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/greencard/>



## A Message to American Communities and Organizations in Mongolia

The State Department strongly encourages American citizens living or planning to travel abroad to register your travel with the Department of State. Registration makes it possible to contact you if necessary, whether because of a family emergency in the United States or because of a crisis in the country you are visiting. Registration is a free service provided by the State Department, and is easily accomplished online at

<https://travelregistration.state.gov>.

Note that, in accordance with the Privacy Act, the Department of State may not release your information without your express written authorization. You should also fill out the emergency contact information section on your passport application and in your passport book. If something happens to you overseas, your passport is the first place local au-

We also advise leaving a detailed itinerary and copies of your passport biographical-data page with a friend or relative in the United States. For more information, please visit: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips\\_1232.html#residing](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#residing)

Once you have registered with the Embassy, you will receive e-mail announcements, Travel Warnings and other emergency notifications.

### Travel Warnings and Alerts

[Eritrea](#) 09/24/2010

[Mexico](#) 09/10/2010

[Korea, Democratic People's Republic of](#) 08/27/2010

[Afghanistan](#) 08/13/2010

[India](#) 09/01/2010

[Bolivia](#) 08/12/2010

[Kenya](#) 07/22/2010

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to this site:

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/tw\\_1764.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html)

### WONDERING IF THE FLIGHT IS ON TIME?

This website has virtually every flight in the world and is updated regularly. It has been used for MIAT and Korean Air flights and it has been accurate every time.

<http://www.flightstats.com/>

### Upcoming Holidays

October 11—Columbus Day

November 11— Veterans Day

### Embassy Contact Information

American Citizen Services  
Embassy of the United States  
11<sup>th</sup> Micro District  
Big Ring Road  
Ulaanbaatar 13, Mongolia  
Tel: 976-11329-095  
Fax: 976-11320-776  
After-hours  
or emergency number: 9911-4168  
E-mail: [UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov](mailto:UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov)  
- or -  
American Embassy Ulaanbaatar  
4410 Ulaan Baatar Place  
Washington, DC, 20521-4410



“If you capture  
one’s soul,  
the body won’t go  
too far.” -

Mongolian proverb